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Natural
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Conservation
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2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus

Landowner Anita Herron, along with Dennis and Emily Jo Gibson, operate "Twin Creek Farms," a 560 acre purebred Angus cattle farm. Waste utilization and a waste storage facility are two practices the farm will implement.

In addition to the beef and tobacco enterprises, the Gibsons are developing a herd of Boer goats, as well as working with a private forester to market their hardwoods. Their goal was to retire from their public jobs and continuing farming.

Things changed in 1990 when Mr. Gibson started having stiffness and pain in his legs. After numerous trips to doctors, he was diagnosed with Wegener's Granulomatosis, a disease that affects the body's immune system. His symptoms persisted and by 1995, he retired. Eventually, Mr. Gibson lost his eye site. Today he makes the day to day farm management decisions.

Mrs. Gibson said, "Even though he can't see, he still loves to farm. Dennis has learned to use his instincts and sense of touch. He can tell a lot about cattle just by feeling them."

Mr. Gibson's son, Shawn came back home to help out on the farm in recent years. Part-time farming is a way of life for Shawn. He remarked, "I think a lot of people in his situation would have given up. He's the type of person that went out and did it himself."

Mr. Gibson looks at the situation as a blessing. His family became closer. He said, "You must learn to accept it and go on."

Future goals for the farm are improving marketing their animals and developing a water system.

Installation of all these cost shared and non cost shared practices will improve the watershed.

Kentucky Summary

Overview

In Kentucky, strong interest and participation in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) continued through fiscal year 2001. Since EQIP's inception, application for assistance has far outweighed the available financial resources. The Kentucky State Technical Committee decided that in fiscal year 2001, all funds would be directed to geographical priority areas. In past years, the funds were divided between priority areas and statewide natural resource concerns.

Priority area applications requesting federal cost-share funds totaling over \$3 million dollars were submitted by approximately 375 landusers. The Kentucky fiscal year 2001 allocation for financial assistance was almost \$2.5 million. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff developed 276 EQIP conservation plans and contracts, which obligated over 99 percent of the allocated financial assistance funds. NRCS employees in Kentucky devoted over 23,500 hours to EQIP technical assistance and administration of EQIP in fiscal year 2001.

Accomplishments

In fiscal year 2001, EQIP financial assistance was distributed in Kentucky through 16 priority area projects. A vast array of natural resource concerns including water quality, animal waste, soil erosion and wildlife habitat, are being addressed through EQIP. In 2001, EQIP contracts were written to implement many conservation practices including over 40 animal waste systems and more than 4,300 acres of waste utilization. Other notable practices include riparian buffers, field borders, stream bank protection, native grass establishment, and alternative livestock water supply. Over 13,000 individual conservation practices have been planned in Kentucky through EQIP since the inception of the program.

In addition to financial assistance, EQIP educational assistance funds were awarded in grants to organizations and groups promoting resource conservation throughout the state.

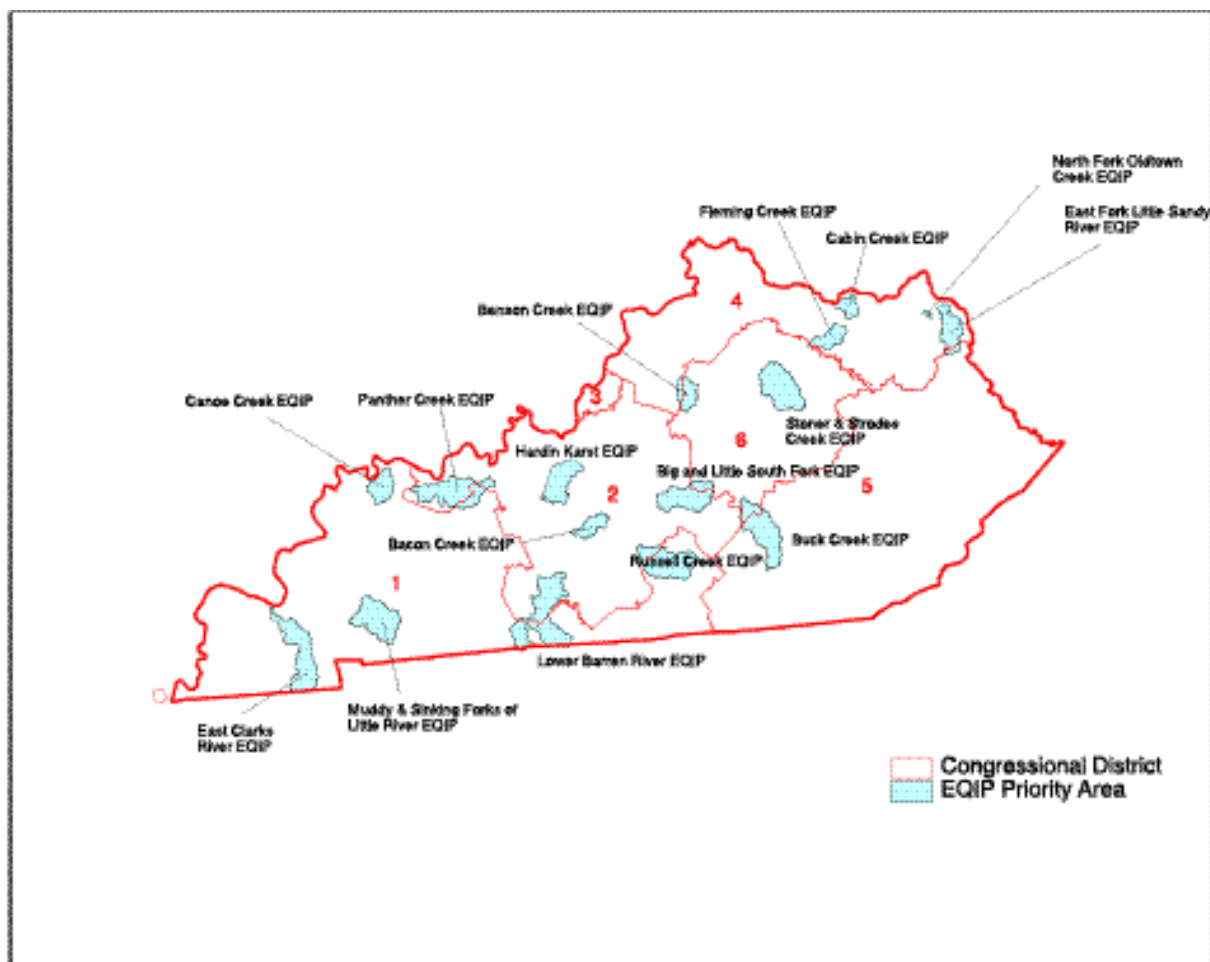
Outlook

If interest and participation are measures of a successful program, then Kentucky proudly reports tremendous success with EQIP. EQIP will remain a popular program among Kentucky's land users and it is expected that future demand will continue to exceed the financial assistance that the state receives.

State Contact

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Kentucky EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Kentucky EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional Districts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (97-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
Statewide Concerns*	\$ 0	0	\$3,303,558	654
District 1	821,486	102	4,949,613	657
District 2	612,286	75	1,078,620	146
District 3	0	0	0	0
District 4	610,215	42	1,774,577	156
District 5	154,696	21	719,727	28
District 6	285,980	36	435,842	59
State Totals	\$2,484,663	276	\$12,261,937	1,700

* EQIP contracts and funding for Statewide Natural Resource Concerns may be in any Congressional District in the state.

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